

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

Final Environmental Impact Statement/Management Plan
Volume 1



Sanctuaries and Reserves Division
1305 East-West Highway
12th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20910

November 1993



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Sanctuaries and Reserves Division

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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Sanctuaries and Reserves Division**



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE
OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Prepared By:

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Title

Final Environmental Impact Statement and Management Plan for the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

Abstract

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) proposes to implement the designation of marine and intertidal coastal waters adjacent to the Olympic Peninsula of Washington State, and the submerged lands thereunder, as a National Marine Sanctuary. The Final Environmental Impact Statement/Management Plan (FEIS/MP) differs from the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Management Plan (DEIS/MP) in three significant ways. First, although the preferred boundary in the Strait of Juan de Fuca is at Koitlah Point both in the DEIS/MP and FEIS/MP, the study area has been expanded, pursuant to public comments, to include waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca eastward to Observatory Point. Second, oil and gas development is prohibited within the Sanctuary. Third, as long as the permit exists authorizing the Navy to use Sea Lion Rock as a practice bombing target, NOAA is imposing a condition on the permit limiting access to the rock from November 1 through April 30. When, and if, the permit is revoked by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), no practice bombing in the Sanctuary will be allowed.

The Sanctuary boundary encompasses approximately 2,500 square nautical miles (8,577 km²) of ocean waters, and submerged lands thereunder, over the continental shelf, from the United States/Canada international boundary to the southern boundary of the Copalis National Wildlife refuge. The boundary extends from Koitlah Point, near Neah Bay, due north to the United States/Canada border, then proceeds in a northwesterly direction to a point just north of Buoy Juliette where it intersects the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The boundary then follows the EEZ in a westerly then southwesterly direction where it intersects the 100 fathom isobath at latitude 48°14'46"N, longitude 125°40'59"W. The boundary continues southeasterly in a straight line, approximating the 100 fathom isobath, to a point at latitude 47°57'13"N, longitude 125°29'13"W. There, it continues across the head of Juan de Fuca Canyon by continuing southeasterly in a straight line to a point at latitude 47°50'01"N, longitude 125°05'42"W. It then follows a straight line in a more southerly direction to a point at latitude 47°40'05"N and longitude 125°04'44"W. The boundary then approximates the 100 fathom isobath to 47°35'05"N and longitude 125°00'00"W. The boundary then continues in a straight line in a southerly direction, crossing the head of Quinault Canyon, to a point west of the mouth of the Copalis River at latitude 47°07'45"N, longitude 124°58'12"W. It then continues due east to the shoreline. The coastal boundary of the Sanctuary reaches to the mean higher high water line except when adjacent to either Indian reservations or State owned land, where it extends only to mean lower low water, cutting across the mouths of any rivers.

Part I of this (FEIS/MP) is the Executive Summary. It reviews the authority for Sanctuary designation, the goals of the National Marine Sanctuary Program, the purpose and need for designating a national marine sanctuary off the Olympic Peninsula, the socioeconomic consequences of designation, the manageability of the area, and a description of the Sanctuary designation process.

Part II of the FEIS/MP describes the study area used for determining a final preferred boundary alternative, including human uses, natural resources, and the existing resource protection regime. The area recommended for the proposed Sanctuary, boundary alternative 4 (approximately 2,635 square nautical miles), provides the habitat and setting for a distinctive assortment of living and non-living marine resources.

Part III examines the alternatives considered in developing the proposal to designate a national marine sanctuary off the Olympic Peninsula. These alternatives were considered in terms of achieving optimum protection for the ecosystem, improving scientific knowledge of the area, promoting public understanding of the value of the resources, minimizing overlap with existing political jurisdictions and minimizing any harmful effects to the area's economy. Based on these criteria, preferred boundary, management, and regulatory alternatives were selected.

Part IV of the FEIS/MP describes environmental and socioeconomic consequences associated with each alternative.

Part V describes the management plan for the Sanctuary. This plan is intended to ensure that all actions taken after designation will meet stated Sanctuary objectives. Management actions are considered in four program categories: (1) Resource protection; (2) Research; (3) Education; and (4) Administration.

Volume II of the FEIS/MP contains the appendices including the Response to Comments and Designation Document.

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FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR
THE PROPOSED OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

<u>Acronym</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
APA	Administrative Procedure Act
AGL	Above Ground Level
ARPA	Archeological Resources Protection Act
ASA	Abandoned Shipwreck Act
ATBA	Area to be Avoided
ATCAA	Air Traffic Control Assigned Air Space
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
COE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CVTMS	Coordinated Vessel Traffic Management System
CWA	Clean Water Act
DEIS/MP	Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Management Plan
DWT	Dead Weight Ton
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EPA	Environmental Protection Act
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FAR	Federal Aviation Regulations
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FE	Federal Endangered
FEIS/MP	Final Environmental Impact Statement/Management Plan
FMP	Fishery Management Plan
FT	Federal Threatened
IMO	International Maritime Organization
JCG	Joint Coordinating Group
MARPOL 73/78	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MFCMA	Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act
MOA	Military Operating Area
MMPA	Marine Mammal Protection Act
MMS	Minerals Management Service
MPA	Marine Preservation Association
MPPRCA	Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act
MPRSA	Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act
MSRC	Marine Spill Response Corporation
NAS	National Academy of Sciences
NEP	National Estuary Program
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NERRS	National Estuarine Research Reserve System
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
NPS	National Park Service
NWIFC	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
OCS	Outer Continental Shelf

OMS	Washington State Office of Marine Safety
OPA 90	Oil Pollution Act of 1990
ORAP	Ocean Resources Assessment Program
PFMC	Pacific Fishery Management Council
PSVTS	Puget Sound Vessel Traffic Service
SAB	NOAA's Strategic Assessment Branch
SE	State Endangered
SEL	Site Evaluation List
SEPA	State Environmental Protection Act
SMA	Shoreline Management Act
SSC	Sanctuary Steering Committee
ST	State Threatened
USCG	United States Coast Guard
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
WDCD	Washington Department of Community Development
WDOE	Washington Department of Ecology
WDF	Washington Department of Fisheries
WDNR	Washington Department of Natural Resources
WDOA	Washington Department of Agriculture
WDW	Washington Department of Wildlife
WSPA	Western States Petroleum Association